

## Salinas Union High School District prepares for more cuts; Salinas Adult School staff at risk

### Board may lay off more Salinas Adult School employees

by maria ines zamudio •  
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An additional three Salinas Adult School employees could lose their jobs Tuesday — and the cuts are far from over, administrators warn.

The Salinas Union High School District's board of trustees will vote whether to lay off the employees to save the district \$280,000, said Superintendent Jim Earhart. The savings include the reassignment of two other Adult School employees, Earhart said.

While the three layoffs are the only reductions the board faces Tuesday night, the district has to close a total \$4 million deficit in its \$79 million operating budget.

Other budget reduction measures — totaling about \$2.37 million — need to be made by July 1. These cuts include:

- Eliminating 20 clerical positions for adult-education staff, saving \$500,000.
- Freezing the position of alternative-education director, saving \$150,000 in one-time funds.
- Reducing another 13 clerical positions in the district, saving \$500,000.
- Increasing class sizes district-wide by one student and laying off 13 teachers, saving \$900,000.
- Laying off four supervisor/administrative positions, saving \$320,000. But that's still not enough, Earhart said. The district lost about \$7.8 million of state funding in the 2008-09 school year and \$4 million in 2009-10 due to state cuts to education. The funding will not be restored, and the district has to keep making tough decisions, he said. During the meeting, the board will review a list of possible additional cuts. For example, Salinas Adult School employees could be asked to work 10 months instead of the entire year, cutting their salaries by more than 8 percent. Earhart said it's been a long week trying to figure out how to balance the budget. One option, he said, would be for the district to shift money now used to run summer school to pay for teacher jobs in the 2011-12 school year, Earhart said. But, he asked, what about students who need the additional academic support? "I'm torn ... I have to choose between educating kids [during the summer] or saving jobs," he said. And that's not all. If the Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers Union and the California School Employees Association don't agree to a five-day unpaid furlough for next year, the district will have even more trimming to do. Earhart said he is still negotiating the furloughs, which could save the district up to \$1.6 million.

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